

LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FUND – PROGRESS REPORT

September 1st, 1999

I DEPARTMENT/AGENCY: Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

II PROJECT TITLE:
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Web Site Multimedia Project

III PROJECT LEADER:
James D. Dousay, I/S Technical Support Specialist
LDWF Information Systems Section
P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
Phone (225)765-2840
e-mail dousay_jd@wlf.state.la.us

IV DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

This is a project intended to provide an interactive medium for the dissemination of wildlife education topics and information to users in Louisiana and other states. Streamed audio and video will deliver information to the public in the form of video news releases, radio show rebroadcasts, interviews, video tours and species profile videos. This service will greatly enhance the Agencies current system of information dissemination which involves static, non-interactive web pages, printed media and a weekly radio show. Use of the Internet in this way has been demonstrated to dramatically increase audience figures while also cutting mailing costs. This project will also provide an internet chatroom which will be available to grade school students from their classrooms. This chatroom will host live discussions on topics such as wildlife conservation and species identification with biologists on hand to answer questions. In addition, the audio and video streams will include materials suitable for use in the classroom.

V PROJECT STATUS

A. The project is in development. The Apr. 1st start date was met and Phase I-A has been completed. Only the hardware installation called for in Phase I-B has been completed. However, additional work planned for Phase III relevant to the prototype chat room has also been completed. There has also been a change in the management structure for this project. On April 26th, all responsibility for the LDWF web site was transferred to the LDWF Information Systems Section (OMF), and J. David Dousay replaced Lyle Soniat as Project Leader. This move was necessary to consolidate the technical and content aspects of this project in one management group and to enable more effective participation.

B. Accomplishments to date include:

- Awarded a contract to Brightstar, Inc.,
- Purchased hardware and software necessary for the project,
- Installed the LaNet circuit to the Internet,

- Selected web site content, including both audio and video data for use in the training phase, and
- Formed a web site committee of LDWF employees, which has reviewed and endorsed the design for the new web site layout.

It was determined that upgrading LDWF's existing 1.5 MB T-1 circuit to a 3 MB circuit would be more cost effective than acquiring a second T-1 for this project. While up front equipment costs were more, ongoing circuit costs will be lower. The 3 MB T-1 circuit will enable much better performance for the web site.

- C. Two major problems have been encountered during this reporting period:
- Delay in getting the Brightstar contract approved by Contractual Review and Civil Service. The principal reason for this delay was the complex status of Brightstar's corporate ownership due to mergers. When the proposal was accepted, the contract was to run from July 1st through August 31st. This has now been changed to August 15th through October 31st.
 - Reluctance on the part of the custodian to make radio show archives available on the web. As a result of this, we have decided not to include these as a resource. Other audio sources have been found within LDWF.
- D. Developments described above have made it necessary to re-structure the phases of this project again. The following is the adjusted implementation timetable:

Phase I (completed) Audio and video data have been selected for use in AV streaming training. Planning for the first chat room session has proceeded. Photographs and press releases have been submitted to the contractor for inclusion. Hardware and software needed for the project have been installed. The 3 MB Router and the LaNet circuit have been installed and are functional. **Phase II**(2 months) began 8/15/99: All training, installation of hardware and software will have been completed and contractor supplied software delivered and installed.

Phase III(2 month) to begin 10/15/99: Encoding of audio and video will begin. By the end of this phase, streamed content will be available to the general public. Material for the chat room sessions will continue to be compiled. The date of the first chat room will be advertised and recruitment of participants will begin.

Phase IV (1 month) to begin 12/15/99: The first chat room session will be held.

VI COST VS. BUDGET

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected Surplus</u>
A.	Equipment	\$10,380	\$10,163	None as yet
B.	Software	\$ 7,973	\$ 736	None as yet
C.	Telecommunications	\$27,057	\$10,465	None as yet
D.	Professional/ Contract Services	\$22,057	\$ 0	None as yet
E.	Other Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A
		=====	=====	=====
	Total Project Cost	\$67,410	\$21,364	\$ None as yet

**VII ITEMIZED EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED
DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD**

P.O. 3437152	Global Data Systems	\$10,465	Router, installation
P.O. 3456501	Dell	7,312	Network Server
P.O. 3456390	Dell	2,851	PC
P.O. 3432843	Software House Int.	736	Software